

Application No. 09/757,362

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-24 have been rejected. Claims 1, 4, 7-10 and 12 have been rejected pursuant to 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Japanese Patent No. 11-49209 to Aomatsu. ("Aomatsu"). Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 14, 15, 17 and 18 have been rejected pursuant to 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Pat. No. 2000-226029 to Tashiro ("Tashiro") in view of Aomatsu. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Aomatsu and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,184,605 to Hanson ("Hanson"). Claims 13, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Aomatsu and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,923,083 to Forbes ("Forbes"). Claims 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tashiro in view of Aomatsu and U.S. Patent No. 3,438,578 to Peterson et al. ("Peterson"). Claim 21 is rejected pursuant to 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tashiro in view of Aomatsu and Peterson, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,184,605 to Hanson ("Hanson").

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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